

Universal Studios: Family fun without Holloywood prices

BY SENIOR AIRMAN BRYAN FRANKS

staff writer

I try to go cheap everywhere I go. My wife and children even nicknamed me Scrooge because of my habit. So when my family wanted to go to Universal Studios I went to the Vandenberg Service Center.

The service center sells discount tickets to many different theme parks and offers vouchers for discount hotel rooms. After I picked up the ticket my family and I were off to Universal Studios. Along with discount tickets the service center gave me coupons for different restaurants at Universal Studios. While I am a cheapskate, I did fork out the extra money for parking and the extra contribution to Universal Studios. I got more coupons which I used through out the day.

There are many different shows at the theme park from "Fear Factor Live" to "Animal Planet Live." All the shows are interactive and children friendly, except the show where a werewolf eats someone's daddy. My kids are still in shock and can't figure out how daddy got out of that werewolf's stomach.

Parents will be happy to know that an entire area of the park is just for them. Nickelodeon Fun Zone is a place for children to play in the water, shoot "Nerf" balls at each other and let parents sit and relax while their children wear themselves out.

After spending a day at Universal Studios we walked from the theme park to the City Walk, an outdoor mall with restaurants, clubs and a movie theatre wrapped up into one.

As the kids passed out in the van from the long day, I began adding up the damage to my pocketbook; not to bad I thought if only I didn't have to pay for gas.



PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN BRYAN FRANKS

Above: The Waterworld show is the most popular show at Universal Studios the actors that perform in the show change from day to day, many of whom act in television. **Below left:** Parents and children play with "Nerf" balls in the Nickelodeon Fun Zone. **Below right:** A 747 lays in ruin in the original set from Steven Spielberg's "War of the World." Many other sets can be seen on the Backlot Tour.

